“Durable solutions for displacement in Central Sahel: engaging local authorities and urban services” (in French only)

Tuesday 13 October - 5:00 - 6:30 CEST
3:00 - 4:30 PM Burkina Faso | 4:00 – 5:30 PM Niger

Theme
The theme of this side event is closely related to the thematic track on “Basic Services”, presented during the Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) in September 2020. By introducing local perspectives, this side event gives room to local actors for sharing specific challenges and their strategies for addressing this unprecedented displacement crisis. The role of local actors for efficient and sustainable provision of basic services in displacement impacted (urban) areas will be highlighted, and local practices for addressing this crisis, reducing social tensions between communities and re-building trust will be shared.

The event will shed light on different strategies adopted throughout the region and underline the need to reinforce local authorities’ capacities for strengthening an urban services approach and enable them to advance local solutions for addressing the crisis. The side event promotes enhancing a human-development-peace nexus approach with a specific focus on urban displacement. While local actors will be at the center of the event, international experts on durable solutions will share insights and lessons learned from site and other regions.

Objective
Local authorities are in the front line of crisis response and managing the massive displacement that have been induced by sub-regional conflicts. A high number of displaced persons moved to urban areas, seeking safety and peace as well as basic services and livelihood opportunities. The rapid influx of displaced people has profound impacts on land use and land tenure and recipient urban settlements have sometimes doubled or tripled in size in few months.

Local authorities are currently facing an unprecedented situation due to the rapid increase of urban population, including the inability to provide basic services (water, sanitation, waste management, education, health, energy, electricity, etc.), tackling the environmental impact of rapid population growth (such as pollution and overuse of natural resources e.g. need for wood for cooking leading to deforestation, increase of community tensions over natural resources), responding to inadequate housing and shelter situations, fragile livelihoods and food insecurity, among other issues. This situation is exacerbated by climate change events, that are provoking exceptional floods and drought in the region, affecting already vulnerable populations and increasing competition over natural resources.

Numerous cases of conflicts between IDPs and host communities have been registered and violence within individual households, especially gender based, have increase. All this is also exacerbated by the Covid19 pandemic, including its longer-term social and economic impacts.
By listening to local authorities' perspectives and experiences, this side event showcases local needs and underlines the importance of strengthening local governments’ capacity and resources for basic service provision. It will also raise awareness of national and international actors for multi-governance, cross-sectoral coordination and involvement of local actors (including civil society and private sector actors) for sustainable urban solutions in displacement settings.

Panelists

- **Christine Knudsen**, Director of External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation, Director of Emergency, UN-Habitat (moderator)
- **Walter Kälin**, Professor, University of Bern, Switzerland
- **Aziz Ahmed Diallo**, Deputy-Mayor of Dori, Burkina Faso
- **Mairou Ligari**, President of the Regional Council of Diffa, Niger
- **Benoît Moreno**, External Relations Officer, UNHCR, Niger
- **Daria Fane**, Head of Regional Team Foreign Policy Instrument West Africa & Lac Chad

Connection details: The event will be accessible on this [link](#) (Microsoft Teams Platform)